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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/890,864	12/21/2001	Wulf Haussler	212603US6	8019

22850 7590 08/27/2003

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EXAMINER

MUTSCHLER, BRIAN L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1753

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action

Application No.

09/890,864

Applicant(s)

HAUSSLER ET AL.

Examiner

Brian L. Mutschler

Art Unit

1753

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address--

THE REPLY FILED 14 August 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☒ A Notice of Appeal was filed on 14 August 2003. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☒ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
- (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
- (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
- (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See Continuation Sheet.

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☒ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☒ will not be entered or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.


Claim(s) rejected: 15-44.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
10. ☐ Other: _____.

Continuation of 2. NOTE: The proposed amendment raises new issues for consideration by presenting the dielectric layer as non-doped zinc oxide layers, (see claims 16 and 34). This proposed amendment raises new issues for consideration because dopant-containing zinc oxide layers were not previously excluded.

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicant's arguments regarding the rejections set forth in the prior Office action are not persuasive because they do not show how the limitations in the instant claims are distinguished over the prior art of record. Applicant asserts that both Weber et al. and Berman et al. use conductive oxide layers or oxide layers that are easily doped to improve their conductivity. While this fact is true, in the broadest interpretation of Applicant's claims, doped oxide layers are included. On page 2 of the instant disclosure, Applicant discloses, "If zinc oxide (ZnO) or another transparent oxide is used as material for the window electrode, this material, which is dielectric in itself, must be deposited as a doped semiconductor." Furthermore, on page 5 of the instant disclosure, Applicant states, "[I]t is also of little importance of whether or not [the highly refractive layer] is electrically conductive." Using the broadest interpretation, it appears that zinc oxide is a dielectric material, and the dopants, while making the zinc oxide conductive, could be considered "additives" to the dielectric material that make it conductive. It is also noted that Applicant discloses, "It has also been observed that a relatively thin layer...of dielectric ZnO between the absorber layer and the window layer of ZnO made conductive by doping increases the efficiency of the solar cell" (see page 3, second full paragraph). An example of this is taught by Chen et al. in U.S. Pat. No. 5,078,804, which includes both high conductivity ZnO layers (50a) and high resistivity ZnO layers (50b).


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